Message Text

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USDOC FOR MARAD/ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLACKWELL

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEWT, EWWT, UR US

SUBJ: US/USSR MARITIME RELATIONS

- 1. IGOR AVERIN, CHIEF, FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE, CALLED IN ECON COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF ON JANUARY 28 TO DISCUSS SEVERAL BILATERAL MATTERS. FIRST, HE RETURNED US TEXTS OF NEW MARITIME AGREEMENT SIGNED BY MINISTER GUZHENKO. TEXTS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO TREICHEL, EUR/SOV UNDER REGISTRY NO. 1624976.
- 2. AVERIN PRESENTED SET OF REGISTRY OF SOVIET SHIPS ALONG WITH SUPPLEMENTS FOR BLACKWELL AS PROMISED DURING MARITIME TALKS LAST DECEMBER. HE EXPLAINED THAT LAST SUPPLEMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN MID-1974 AND THAT FOLLOW-ON WOULD NOT BE PRINTED UNTIL MID-1976. TO BRIDGE GAP TO PRESENT, HE PREPARED A STATISTICAL APPENDIX UNDER COVER OF A LETTER TO BLACKWELL. AVERIN ASKED THAT APPENDIX BE FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY AND THAT CONTENTS NOT BE PUBLISHED. SOVIET PUBLICATIONS, AVERIN LETTER, WITH EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION, STATISTICAL APPENDIX, AND SET OF PHOTOGRAPHS FOR BLACKWELL ARE BEING POUCHED TO BOURDON/MARAD UNDER REGISTRY NO. 1624977.
- 2. REGARDING WORKDING GROUP MEETING TENETATIVELY FIXED FOR MARCH IN WASHINGTON, AVERIN SAID MEMBERS OF SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD BE:
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MR. V. ALYESHIN, SOVFRACHT

MR. L. PALADICH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION
FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS
MR. V. KONSTANTINOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, SOVFRACHT
MR. KORSHUNOV, NEW YORK
USSR DELEGATION WILL WANT TO DISCUSS BULK CARGO RATES.
SOVIET IDEAS AND POSITIONS WILL BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH
EMBASSY TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME AFTER MID-FEBRUARY. AVERIN
ADDED THAT HE HAS "GREAT PERSONAL DIFFICULTY" WITH EXISTING RATE SYSTEM AS MINISTRY OF FINANCE IS HECTORING HIM
ABOUT EXCESSIVE EXPENDITURES.

4. AVERIN MENTIONED THAT JANUARY 26 MEETING WITH THREE US SHIPPING EXECUTIVES PRODUCED "PROMISING" RESULTS BUT SOVIETS HAD WARNED THAT BILATERAL SHIPMENTS OF LINER CARGO WILL DECLINE AFTER 1976 UNLESS THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF MFN AND CREDITS FOR THE USSR. STOESSEL

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